RG104 E-1 Box 135 Aug-Sep 1885

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

ASSAY DEPARTMENT,

August 14, 1885.

Sir:

In the matter of an alleged deficit in our report upon certain Silver bars of the Chicago S. & R. Co., as set forth in the letter of J. B. Colgate & Co., I beg leave to present the following considerations.

We have received so few of this make of bars, that it is impossible for us to form an idea of their general character and fidelity to their nominal fineness. But it is something to know that the lot received here on June 2, varied from 998 to 999. Of course there is no conclusiveness in this, but it serves to show that another day's work testifies that the Chicago bars are not all 999 and not ~~xx~~ uniform.

Further evidence of the inferential sort, lies in the fact that ~~xxxx~~ bars from another refining assayed on the same day, and rolled, in the same batch,

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showed an increased title over the Chicago bars, the dividing line being drawn just between the two refineries and not within the invoice limits of either one of them. This is happening every day and is often a good indicator of the passage from one lot of bullion to another, in the same batch of assays.

Passing the inferential argument for all, but no more, than it is worth, I now cite what we consider direct proof of the accuracy of our report. And here, let it be said, the actual assay was 998 ¼ though, of course, reported 998.

The Melter & Refiner in making up his melts for coinage, calculated the copper to be added, upon the basis of 998¼. He calculates for 899, adding clippings enough to bring the ingots to 898¾. This is an exact and exacting operation, and may be considered

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a severe test of our original assays. As the Assayer has no knowledge whatever of the make-up of the melts, he has no predisposition in the case, and hence, in that direction, no personal Error.

The ten melts made from three bars, calculated for $898\frac{3}{4}$ assayed as follows: 899, 899, $898\frac{3}{4}$, $898\frac{3}{4}$, $898\frac{3}{4}$, 899, $898\frac{1}{2}$, 899, $898\frac{1}{2}$, $898\frac{3}{4}$. This may be considered an exact and perfect corroboration both of our assays, and the Melter & Refiner's calculations; and this done, too, without special attention or design. Had the Chicago bars been over 999, as they claim, the ingots ~~about~~ would very nearly have reached 900, i.e. $899\frac{1}{4}$, instead of $898\frac{3}{4}$ precisely what it was designed to be, and what it resulted.

It is not possible to go further than this, as the bullion has long since passed into coin.

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In regard to the slip sent for assay, (remainder herewith returned), we have not the slightest proof that it represents the bars. Without questioning the word or intention of the Chicago Company, it is enough to know that they might much more easily be mistaken in one sample, than we in thirteen bars and ten melts of ingots made from them. The bars are assayed from inside cuts from each bar, the Standard ingots from double granulations. If this is not conclusive there is nothing more to add.

The slip is fairly up to 999, no more.

We are always willing to examine claims of this kind and rectify errors, when they exist. I only regret that the claim was not made sooner that we might further have corroborated our position by fresh cuttings from the

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bars themselves. I trust that you will find these statements satisfactory to yourself as well as to Messrs Colgate & Co.

Very Respy

Jacob B. Eckfeldt
Assayer

Hon Daniel M. Fox
Superintendent &c.

777

U.S. Mint
Philad.

August 14 - 85

Eckfeldt.

Relative to deficit
in our report upon
Silver Bars of Chicago
S & R Co.

RECEIVED
AUG 14 1885
U.S. MINT, PHILA.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 135

[Abstract:] Relative to deficit in our report upon Silver Bars of Chicago S & R Co.

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
Assay Department,
August 14, 1885

Sir:

In the matter of an alleged deficit in our report upon certain Silver bars of the Chicago S & R Co., as set forth in the letter of J.B. Colgate & Co., I beg leave to present the following considerations.

We have received so few of this make of bars, that it is impossible for us to form an idea of their general character and fidelity to their invoiced fineness. But it is something to know that the lot received here on June 2, varied from 998 to 999. Of course there is no conclusiveness in this, but it serves to show that another day's work testifies that the Chicago bars are not all 999 and not ~~all~~ uniform.

Further evidence of the inferential sort, lies in the fact that ~~other~~ bars from another refinery assayed on the same day, and indeed in the same batch, showed an increased title over the Chicago bars, the dividing line being drawn just between the two refineries and not within the invoice limits of either one of them. This is happening every day and is often a good indicator of the passage from one lot of bullion to another, in the same batch of assays.

Passing the inferential argument for all, but no more, than it is worth, I now cite what we consider direct proof of the accuracy of our report. And here, let it be said, the actual assay was 998 ¼ though, of course, reported 998.

The Melter & Refiner in making up his melts for coinage, calculated the copper to be added, upon the basis of 998 1/4. He calculates for 899, adding clippings enough to bring the ingots to 898 3/4. This is an exact and exacting operation, and may be considered a severe test of our original assays. As the Assayer has no knowledge whatever of the make-up of the melts, he has no predisposition in the case, and hence, in that direction, no <u>personal</u> error.

The ten melts made from these bars, calculated for 898 ¾ assayed as follows: 899, 899, 898 ¾, 898 ¾, 898 ¾, 899, 898 ½, 899, 898 ½, 898 3/4. This may be considered an exact and perfect corroboration both of our assays, and the Melter & Refiner's calculations; and this done, too, without special attention or design. Had the Chicago bars been over 999, as they claim, the ingots would very nearly have reached 900, i.e. 899 ¾ , instead of 898 ¾ precisely what it was designed to be, and what it resulted.

It is not possible to go further than this, as the bullion has long since passed into coin.

In regard to the slip sent for assay, (remainder herewith returned), we have not the slightest proof that it represents the bars. Without questioning the word or intention of the Chicago Company, it is enough to know that they might much more easily be mistaken in one

sample, than we in thirteen bars and ten melts of ingots made from them. The bars are assayed from inside cuts form each bar, the standard ingots from double granulations. If this is not conclusive there is nothing more to add.

The slip is fairly up to 999, no more.

We are always willing to examine claims of this kind a rectify errors, where they exist. I only regret that the claim was not made sooner that we might further have corroborated our position by fresh cuttings from the bars themselves. I trust that you will find these statements satisfactory to yourself as well as to Messrs. Colgate & Co.

Very Respy.
Jacob B. Eckfeldt
Assayer

Hon. Daniel M. Fox
Superintendent &&c.